GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3174
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
OPIUM CULTIVATION
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether most of the villages of Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh have been declared as draught affected areas;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the District Collector of the said area have requested the Union Government to ban the opium cultivation in the State; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b) The State Government has declared the following Tehsils in Mandsaur and Neemuch Districts of Madhya Pradesh as drought affected: Mandsaur: Mandsaur, Sitamau, Malhargarh, Garoth and Bhanpura Neemuch: Neemuch, Jawad, Manasa

(c) The District Collector, Mandsaur, has requested the Central Bureau of Narcotics, Gwalior that in view of the likely shortage of water in the months to come, opium and wheat cultivation in the districts should be banned during the current crop season and eligible cultivators who fail to renew their opium licences should be assured about their eligibilities in next crop year 2002.

(d) The eligible cultivators through advertisement in the local newspapers have been assured of licences for the next crop year 2002 even if they do not obtain licence, or having obtained a licence do not sow opium due to water shortage during the crop year 2001. As a special case this year the cultivators have also been given an option to sow opium crop in other fields in the same village or adjacent notified village where there is enough water.